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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91233690
Party	Defendant Rusty Ralph Lemorande
Correspondence Address	RUSTY LEMORANDE 1245 NORTH CRESCENT HEIGHTS BLVD #B LOS ANGELES, CA 90046 UNITED STATES lemorande@gmail.com 323-309-6146
Submission	Other Motions/Papers
Filer's Name	Rusty Ralph Lemorande
Filer's email	lemorande@gmail.com
Signature	/Ralph Lemorande/
Date	02/13/2019
Attachments	NOLD.Letter of Petition to Director.UPLOAD TO TTAB.Updated.SEND.pdf(2862138 bytes)

R.H. Lemorande

February 12, 2019

TO THE TTAB and OPPOSER

With apologies to all, I resubmit the LETTER OF PETITION TO THE DIRECTOR, now with the EXHIBITS attached

The prior upload, unfortunately, did not have the EXHIBITS.

Applicant kindly asks that the individual receiving this at the TTAB also provide a copy to the office of the Director, given that upload was insufficient, also.

Sincerely (and apologetically)

/Rusty Lemorande/ Rusty Lemorande **Applicant** *In Pro Per*

1 2 3 4 5	Rusty Lemorande Address: P.O. Box 46771 Los Angeles, Ca 90046 Phone Number: 1 323 309 6146 E-mail Address: <u>Lemorande@gmail.com</u>				
6	IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD				
7	TRADEMARK TRIA	AL AND ALLEAD BOARD			
8	Opposition No. 91233690				
9	IMAGE 10) Proceeding Number: 91233690			
10	Opposer/Plaintiff,)			
11	VS.) APPLICANT'S PETITION TO) DIRECTOR			
12					
13	Rusty Lemorande)			
14	Applicant/Defendant.				
15					
16					
17	INTRODUCTORY COMMENT R	RE FILING DATE OF THIS PETITION			
18	Petitioner notes that per Trademark Rule 2.14	6(a)(3), a petition from an interlocutory order of			
19	1	be filed no later than thirty days after the issue date			
20		be fried no fater than tility days after the issue date			
21	of the order from which relief is requested.				
22	The Interlocutory Attorney filed its int	erlocutory order on January 15th, 2019. Therefore,			
23	per the rule, this Petition is timely filed.				
2425	REQUES	ST FOR STAY			
25 26	Per Trademark Rule 2.146(g), the mere filing	of a petition to the Director will not act as a stay in			
20 27	any appeal or inter partes proceeding that is pe	ending before the Trademark Trial and Appeal			
28	Board, nor stay the period for replying to an o	ffice action in an application, except when a stay is			
	I ETTED	OF PETITION			

specifically requested and is granted. Applicant hereby requests a stay of the opposition proceedings pending resolution of the matters described herein.

THE GOOD CAUSE OF THIS PETITION

Previously in this Opposition, Applicant found the Interlocutory's reading and analysis of a fully briefed motion was so wanting that only a Letter of Petition to the Director was appropriate. As a result, the Interlocutory reviewed the motion and reversed much of her earlier position.

Sadly, that is the position Applicant, once again, finds himself in; ergo, this letter of petition.

There are many **glass ceilings** in America suffered historically by women, African Americans, and the old. However, it appears another is emerging - self-represented parties in the U.S. legal system, including the Federal courts and administrative agencies (such as the TTAB). Admittedly largely based on personal, anecdotal evidence, Applicant firmly believes any intelligent and disinterested party upon studying and reviewing important events in the history of this Opposition, especially the most recent order by the TTAB, would find that a *pro se* applicant needs to work multiple times over merely to achieve the same result as a represented party.

Applicant requests and respectfully urges the Director to make such a review and determine for him/herself.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A new zombie appears to have risen in this Night Of The Living Dead matter, and it is not the defunct corporation and Opposer, Image 10, which rose about 2 years ago, nearly 50 years after its termination in 1968 (solely, it appears, to initiate this Opposition) but rather, a new zombie injustice on the part of the TTAB through its agent, the current, new Interlocutory Attorney assigned.

Applicant, at first blush in response to the TTAB's most recent order (hereinafter 'Order'), believed that a Motion for Reconsideration was appropriate.

However, upon careful review, it became Applicant's belief that the Order represented such a near-complete failure to fully read and review (not only the Motion itself <u>but the history</u> of the entire matter), that Applicant concluded that the Director should be made aware of this, not just for the sake of Applicant but, perhaps, for other *in pro per* parties possibly subject to the same lack of fair procedure in the future.

In other words, Applicant strongly believes that only upon an experienced and supervisory review can the matter be corrected now and in all Interlocutory matters going forward in this Opposition.

It is possible that the apparent recent change of assignment of an Interlocutory Attorney (hereinafter, IA) occasioned this result. If this is the case, Applicant respectfully points out 1) this change is not the fault of Applicant, and 2) merely recognizing this change is not a remedy. Applicant is not suggesting that justice is disserved by the use of new staff attorneys (if that is the case here), but that there is a miscarriage when an apparently incomplete review in a serious matter such as a TTAB opposition proceeding occurs and is then relied upon.¹

THE RECENT TTAB ORDER

The IA, in her Order, states:

"Based on the foregoing, it does not appear that Applicant provided Opposer with a meaningful opportunity to resolve the parties' dispute prior to seeking Board intervention."

¹ Applicant recalls a medical professor once telling him that new, young doctors, upon graduating, are told to 'go out and kill a few patients', recognizing that such unfortunate patients are a necessary part of the educational process to benefit all society. Perhaps, that is true in law as well, and, if so, Applicant asks the TTAB that he not be deemed such a patient.

Applicant, on several readings, still cannot find a way to reconcile this statement with the facts as briefed which include thirteen steps taken by Applicant towards resolution prior to filing the Motion.

In order to make this as evident as possible, Applicant has taken not inconsiderable time to generate a timeline, inserted below, indicating the many actions Applicant took to resolve the matter <u>without</u> the need of TTAB intervention. Applicant's actions are listed in the top box; Opposer's beneath, and the bottom section indicates TTAB events. Note, also, symbols for

telephone calls and emails.



LETTER OF PETITION

LETTER OF PETITION

- 8) Applicant emails Opposer again, asking why there has been no filing of withdrawal.

 (Opposer emails in reply, saying has been 'backed up', and asks that a draft stipulation be sent to Counsel for Opposer.
- 9) Sept. 10, 2018: The next day, Applicant drafts stipulation and emails to Opposer.
- 10) Sept. 11, 2018: Given no response from Counsel for Opposer, and concerned with discovery clock ticking, Applicant emails again asking if Opposer will sign stipulation or amend.
 - (Opposer replies that day, stating has 'many cases', and not ignoring Applicant.)
- 11) Sept. 12, 2018: Applicant responds, stating concern that the TTAB is not aware of the above.
- 12) Applicant responds, appreciating Opposer's courtesy, but given two weeks have passed since Opposer stopped call to TTAB, Applicant suggests a three-way conference with TTAB, as ordered by them, and initially attempted by Applicant.
- 13) Applicant resends prior email to ensure delivery, given its importance.
- 14) Applicant inquires re silence from Counsel for Opposer.
- 15) Still hearing nothing from Counsel for Opposer, Applicant places urgent telephone call to Counsel for Opposer, and leaves detailed voice message.
- 16) Email sends a confirming email, detailing the voicemail, and stating that if Applicant receives no response, Applicant will be filing a motion with the TTAB so that it is aware of the above.
- 17) 39 DAYS SINCE OPPOSER STOPPED CALL TO TTAB CLAIMING IT WOULD WITHDRAW THAT DAY OR WITHIN A FEW DAYS, AND 38 DAYS SINCE DRAFT STIPULATION WAS SENT TO OPPOSER, Applicant finally files a Motion with the TTAB.

- 18) Applicant also took the time (which was not trivial and, frankly, unnecessary, given the prior written arguments Applicant had sent to Opposer, a document never responded to in any meaningful way) to email a list of issues in advance of the call to be discussed during the meet and confer, hoping that discussion would be fruitful and finally resolve the matter. Please note Opposer wrote no such helpful document nor showed the interest or courtesy to even respond at any subsequent point acknowledging mere receipt of the document.
- 19) When the call finally occurred, as previously briefed to the TTAB, at the very introduction, <u>Opposer announced that no discussion was to be had</u>, claiming this was because counsel was withdrawing that very day or no later than early the next week.
- 20) However, Counsel actually did <u>not</u> withdraw not that day or within a few days or for <u>two and a half weeks after many requests by Applicant</u>, and only after Applicant was forced to file his motion.
- 21) Early in this interval, Applicant took the time to draft and send a proposed stipulation for Opposer's review, understanding there could be further proposed changes and ultimately a signature.
- 22) <u>Counsel again disappeared</u>, ghosting Applicant by failing to respond to <u>any</u> inquiry email or telephone.
- 23) Applicant, understandably concerned that his discovery window was closing quickly, especially given Opposer's historical last-minute tactics (a matter of earlier motion practice) presumably enacted to prevail in the Opposition solely through procedural maneuvers rather than on the merits of the case, attempted to reach Opposer continuously. Again, silence in all forms ensued.
- 24) Understandably fearing that Opposer or the TTAB would declare a waiver on Applicant's part, Applicant responsibly filed the motion to which this order pertains.

(PLEASE NOTE: The Evidentiary Exhibits proving the above, previously attached to the original motion by Applicant, are reattached now for the convenience of the Director.)

RE: THE TIMELINE

Upon review, you will see that Applicant's actions prior to filing his recent motion total 16.

Opposer's merely 5. In addition, and perhaps more persuasively, please note the horizontal bars that indicate the amount of time passing - a clock rapidly ticking on Applicant's discovery window - during which Opposer became obstructively non-responsive, and at times completely silent despite multiple varied attempts by Applicant to communicate.

Millennials call these silences 'ghosting'. No one likes it; Applicant clearly did not, and such a tactic seems legally inappropriate in the midst of a TTAB opposition.

What Applicant finds especially egregious in Opposer's many egregious actions (through its then-counsel) is its statement to the TTAB:

"Unfortunately, Applicant did not want to provide Counsel and Opposer a reasonable opportunity to file the applicantion [sic] for withdrawal. Applicant instead insisted on a motion to compel." [Emphasis added].

First of all, it appears very unlawyerly to posit that it knows Applicant's 'wants' let alone anyone's. That is the realm of psychics, if that skill truly exists. Speculation is fine, and Applicant occasionally speculates as to Opposer's true motives, but stating that Applicant 'did not want' is inappropriate, inadmissible and, frankly, silly. Almost as questionable is Opposer stating that 'Applicant insisted'. Unless Opposer is quoting a statement by Applicant, such word choice is in appropriate as well.

Additionally, Opposer, in its most recent filing, states, pertaining to Applicant's request for tax returns that:

 $\hbox{``...} Applicant \ has \ provided \ no \ justification \ for \ such \ materials.'$

This is patently untrue, as will be seen by the Director if he or she reviews the past filings in this matter. Applicant properly researched the topic and then provided Opposer with case citations and other supporting evidence (provided as an **Exhibit One**, email sent on Feb 23,

2018). Other Exhibits pertaining to Applicant's many efforts to resolve the tax return matter (all previously submitted within a motion) are again attached as **Exhibits Two** (March 7, 2018), **Three** (March 13, 2018) **Four** (March 20, 2018), **Five** (March 23, 2018), **Six** (April 26, 2018), **Seven** (May 2, 2018), and **Eight** (Aug 28, 2018).

Opposer failed to respond, and now, worse, claims no such information was sent, representing a clear falsehood propounded to the TTAB.

The obvious speciousness of such statements, including those described and examined above, given the entire history of events, is distasteful, at least to Applicant who submits that these misleading and often false statements to the TTAB are sufficient grounds for the sanctions requested.

It is beyond Applicant's imagination as to how the IA could conclude, based on the fully briefed and described 14 time-consuming steps taken by Applicant above, that Applicant did not provide Opposer with:

"... a meaningful opportunity to resolve the parties dispute prior to [Applicant] seeking Board intervention"

This assertion is, frankly, at least to Applicant, stunning. Applicant sincerely wonders what 14th step the TTAB, through its agent, the IA, would suggest. Perhaps the director can do so.

CONTINUING CONCERNS RE THE TTAB'S INTERLOCUTORY ATTORNEYS' POSSIBLE DISRESPECT FOR SELF-REPRESENTED PARTIES

Applicant feels he has good reason to worry that the TTAB is possibly treating this in pro per matter with little more than a cursory read of Applicant's Opposition defense, or worse - a determination to resolve and get rid of this matter without fair discovery or due process.

Somewhat recently, noted 7th Circuit Appellate justice, Honorable Richard Posner, described in his book written to explain his reason for quitting that distinguished bench, the

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unfair treatment of self-represented parties in Federal matters. Applicant worries, as described in his prior Petition to the Director, that is again the case.

Judge Posner stated in a N.Y. Times article ²discussing his book regarding selfrepresented parties:

> "The basic thing is that most judges regard these people as kind of trash not worth the time of a federal judge."

It that article, Judge Posner then states the general reason for his retirement. Per the interviewer:

> "He had become concerned with the plight of litigants who represented themselves in civil cases... Their grievances were real, he said, but the legal system was treating them impatiently, dismissing their cases over technical matters."

Applicant feels his concerns are justified that despite attending to the Opposition with full diligence, including research of the TTAB rules and prior cases, his defense is being impatiently dismissed over technical matters. Applicant prays the Director show the error of this perspective.

To be fair, the Order is not, in its entirety, disrespectful of or disinterested in Applicant's requests. The continuing, boilerplate arguments made by Image 10 as to why its business information is sacred and not available in the very Opposition it initiated, caused an order for a privilege log, a standard item, something, frankly, that should have been provided two years ago, being a discovery requirement any licensed attorney appearing before the Board would know without admonition and instruction.

CONFUSION IN INTERPRETING THE ORDER

Confusion occurs when the I.A. states:

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² An Exit Interview With Richard Posner, Judicial Provocateur; Adam Liptak, New York Times, Sept. 11, 2017

"Opposer's counsel noted that he was planning to withdraw his representation and rather than file the agreed to suspension of deadlines or to otherwise extend or suspend proceedings, Applicant filed the instant motion to compel."

Adding a required dash and converting this to two sentences makes the content understandable, at least to Applicant:

"Opposer's counsel noted that he was planning to withdraw his representation.

Rather than file the agreed[-]to suspension of deadlines or to otherwise extend or suspend proceedings, Applicant filed the instant motion to compel."

In reply, Applicant first asks what was the 'agreed-to suspension of deadlines'? Is the IA referring to the <u>draft</u> stipulation proposed by APPLICANT alone, one Opposer refused to read and revise (if necessary), let alone sign and return? Although Opposer did agree to the idea of a stipulation, one solely to the benefit of Opposer and the TTAB (avoiding another Motion to be drafted then read by with a subsequent Order from the TTAB), <u>Opposer's refusal to even respond to the draft</u>, revise or sign so that it could be timely filed with the TTAB, makes it clear that <u>no suspension/stipulation was ever 'agreed to</u>'.

Perhaps Applicant is mistaken, but he found, after careful review, that nothing in the TTAB Rules provides for filing such an 'agreed-to suspension of deadlines' when nothing was ever agreed to or even discussed despite numerous efforts by Applicant.³

³ For the avoidance of confusion, as stated, the call to Opposer was cut short by Counsel declaring he was no longer representing Opposer. Therefore, no terms for a stipulation were 'discussed or agreed to'. Applicant did later propose terms and a timeframe in his drafted stipulation but, as has been already stated, a response – either of agreement or disagreement - from Opposer was never forthcoming.

Given the long history of difficult interaction with Opposer's counsel (often hostile to Applicant as the Director will see in the prior motions and their exhibits) and the refusal of Opposer's counsel to return a call, respond to e-mails or discuss anything substantive or meaningful, Applicant had reason to believe that the promised by yet unfiled Withdrawal or even Intent to Withdraw was just another tactic to ensure the discovery period would run and then expire without any meaningful response to discovery ever having been provided by Opposer. In other words, Opposer either had no intention of filing his withdrawal as promised, or reviewing, commenting (if necessary) and then signing the proposed stipulation without prejudice to Applicant or, in the alternative, Opposer was so egregiously negligent that the same damaging result would likely have occurred - a finding that Applicant had waived his right to further fair, and proper and Constitutional mandated and discovery.⁴

Had Applicant <u>not</u> filed his Motion - the one the I.A. clearly complains of - more time would have passed, leading to likely waiver, one unnecessary, unfair, and unacceptable.

The IA also states in its order:

"Applicant could have filed a motion to suspend or extend deadlines without Opposer's consent, noting Opposer's counsel had indicated his plans to withdraw his representation of Opposer."

To this comment, Applicant first asks: 'A motion filed for what purpose?' It seems that such a motion would merely give Opposer more time to avoid the matter and further prejudice

Applicant in his bona-fide business intentions, dealing a further dilatory blow in an Opposition filed by Image 10, a deceased company for 50 years, causing a legal proceeding now two years in the making WITHOUT ONE DOCUMENT PRODUCED!

⁴ In the hope the Director will take the time to review the fully briefed motions in the history of this Opposition, the Applicant also notes Opposer continuously 'gamed' the process, repeatedly filing non-responsive and/or useless responses, playing with time frames and other tactics, as noted by the TTAB itself in its Orders, rather than just complying with the customary and unremarkable discovery requests.

It also makes no sense why both the TTAB and Applicant should be jointly subject to Opposer's whims, delays, deceptions or negligence, as the case may be. If Opposer was not willing to sign a stipulation informing the TTAB of the status of the Opposition, or a simple withdrawal (basically a form motion with one inserted paragraph requiring less than two minutes to compose, one stating a commonplace and mundane reason for withdrawal (i.e. the non-payment of fees), why would Applicant be the proper party to 'buy more time' for the negligent Opposer, one whose tardiness and failure to provide discovery despite three orders from the TTAB over two years has already dragged this Opposition further than reasonable or necessary? In other words, Applicant is not the scheduling assistant for Opposer, and there is nothing

in the Rules that requires or even suggests otherwise.

Moreover, if Applicant were to file such an ex parte extension of deadlines on behalf of the 'too busy' Opposer, what amount of time would be appropriate to insert in the request?

Perhaps something like:

"...Until Opposer no longer is too busy to speak on the phone, or read and revise if necessary, and then sign a simple joint stipulation drafted and sent by Applicant"?

Or, is the IA suggesting that Applicant expend more of his own time (clearly not as valuable to Counsel for Opposer as is his own time) in an attempt to reach Counsel for Opposer who, if he even elected to actually respond (as he hadn't at that point) Applicant might obeisantly then ask,

'How much time should I ask to extend so you have an opportunity to make this case a priority in your busy practice - I, of course, not being busy – so you may find a few minutes to determine when you'll later have 10 minutes to file your withdrawal or read and approve and sign a simple stipulation?"

On this basis, the TTAB's above suggestion, at least to Applicant, makes no sense.

Additionally, the IA states:

"Because Applicant did not obtain prior Board approval and because Applicant did not exercise the requisite good faith effort before filing the motion to compel, Applicant's motion to compel is denied." [Emphasis added].

Again, the IA creates a circularity, one impenetrable and incapable of uncoiling, at least to Applicant. Since no two-way call could be achieved (given Opposer's objection based on its imminent withdrawal), obviously no three-way call with the TTAB could be achieved either (for the reasons stated in this and the prior motion), how does the IA suggest obtaining 'prior board approval' prior to filing a motion? There was nothing in the TTAB'S prior order providing for this circumstance, nor does any section of the Rules describe and then regulate this. Perhaps the IA believes that Applicant, should have called the IA directly, ex parte. But, given the history of the Orders on this matter which shone a stark and sharp spotlight on the in pro per applicant to know the TTAB rules and technicalities well, perhaps better than many practicing attorneys, Applicant, therefore, worried of the consequences of not following the rules exactly, or being perceived as disobeying the prior order. Perhaps, therefore, the Director will understand why Applicant, failing to find such instruction within the Order or the TTAB Rules, would not even consider being inventive at this point. Applicant again recalls Judge Posner's N.Y. Times where it states:

"... [The self-represented parties'] grievances were real, [Judge Posner] said, but the legal system was treating them impatiently, dismissing their cases over technical matters."

Perhaps the IA or the Board itself believes since this is an in pro per defense to an Opposition filed by Image 10 (despite Applicant's application being approved for publication after proper review by a TTAB examining attorney), the Applicant has no personal and authentic

ability to pursue the business activities for which an 'intent to use' application exists. Moreover, perhaps there is an assumption that since an attorney has not been engaged by Applicant, no business can truly be conducted, the intent to use application being merely a costly lark.

For the record, although Image 10 has produced only one motion picture (admittedly a classic) over a half-century ago, then almost immediately shuttering its doors.⁵), Applicant has professionally contributed to 13, including producing nine major motion pictures, several with Academy Award winning directors, three already considered classics. He is a Golden Globe Winner and the writer of an Academy Award Nominated screenplay. Applicant has also written scores of screenplays commissioned by the major studios and television networks, as well as written and directed high-profile MTV-style videos with artists such as Luther Vandross and the Culture Club. In other words, Applicant's business intentions are authentic and supported by a professional history.

AS TO A "LACK OF IMPASSE"

The IA states confusing in the Order,

"Indeed, the apparent lack of impasse indicates that Applicant's efforts toward resolution were incomplete and insufficient." [Emphasis added]

Applicant finds himself at a loss to understand this sentence, starting by Applicant pondering what constitutes the double-negative: a 'lack of impasse'? Do unreturned or non-productive phone calls, emails never responded to, a unilateral election not to speak with the TTAB in a three-way conference call, and other listed events above equal a complete and utter failure 'incomplete and insufficient' efforts to respond and communicate; do they not represent an 'impasse', especially considering this is not a matter of one event but a bundle – and a large one -

⁵ By 'shuttering its doors', Applicant, hopefully obviously, means terminating the entity.

transpiring over a critical period of time as an important clock is ticking (not only as to discovery deadlines but to a bona fide business plan for which the 'intent to use' application was first filed?

Applicant cannot deduce the meaning of or any accuracy within the above sentence from the TTAB Order, and sincerely doubts that the Director will be able to.⁶

APPLICANT'S PURPORTED FAILURE TO COOPERATE

The IA, in her order, states:

"Given the tenor of the parties' filings, it is clear that the parties have failed to cooperate with one another in the discovery process." [Emphasis added]

Rather than elaborate in rebutting this stunning statement, Applicant will rely on the Director's assessment in his or her review of the timeline of events revealing clear and unequivocal proof that Applicant has in no way 'failed to cooperate', and that, in fact, Applicant has gone the distance-and-more in unnecessary expenditures of time in order to resolve the matters despite Opposer's near-constant obstruction and game-playing, a procedure already noted by the TTAB in prior orders.

Please see the attached **Exhibit TEN** (11, May 2, 2018) in which Counsel for Opposer actually states that he and Opposer will no longer communicate with Applicant.

AS TO THE DISCOVERY WINDOW

⁶ In this footnote, perhaps more important than much of the main text, Applicant points out the directive in a prior Order by a different IA, in which she states:

[&]quot;A motion to compel must be supported by a written statement that the moving party has made a good faith effort, by conference or correspondence, to resolve with the other party or its attorney the issues presented in the motion, and has been unable to reach agreement ..."

[&]quot;... <u>It was incumbent upon Applicant, prior to filing his motions, to make at least one additional inquiry.</u> See Hot Tamale Mama, 110 USPQ2d at 1082 (finding single email exchange between the parties insufficient to establish good faith effort)."

Applicant now asks the Director, given the admonition by the current IA, who finds that inquiries far more than two in number still aren't sufficient, just when will the goal post in this matter stop moving?

Since there is nothing in the Order stating a revised Discovery schedule, and more time has been expended waiting for Image 10 to decide its representation and then register such change with the TTAB, Applicant is at an understandable loss as to what the discovery deadlines are (within which documents yet remain unproduced followed by reasonable time to review, and then, if necessary, conduct depositions) or, worse, Applicant wonders if, because of Opposer's actions (and the IA's order), discovery is now deemed closed.

Therefore, Applicant kindly requests that the TTAB provide the current expected timeline and deadlines for the mutual benefit of both Applicant and Opposer.

THE FAILED CONFERENCE CALL ATTEMPT

Given the importance of the call Applicant requested of Opposer, scheduled and then commenced, faithfully honoring the TTAB's order to do so prior to engaging the TTAB in the ongoing discovery morass, Applicant documented the call with a third-party. Applicant hereby attaches a declaration reporting in detail the conversation within that call. This detail clearly refutes much of Opposer's assertions on this matter.

Please see Exhibit NINE, attached, which is that declaration.

OPPOSER'S SUBSEQUENT WITHDRAWAL 'PING-PONG'

It could be mere coincidence, negligence, or cunning gaming that counsel's August 31, 2018 telephone statement that it no longer represents Opposer, precluding a three-way call to the TTAB when it is strategically favorable to Opposer, suddenly curiously occasions representation by the same Counsel to rise from the dead, in order to file another useless response to documents requested. Applicant should not be further prejudiced by this zombie-like action, and respectfully asserts it bolsters grounds for sanctions of some form.

In short, and as the Director will see if choosing to reviewing the entire history of this matter, Applicant has repeatedly bent over backwards throughout the Opposition procedure to

accommodate Opposer, first by not objecting to its tardy submission in an initial instance, and including, most recently, by Applicant himself proposing additional time to enable Opposer to decide whether it would self-represent or find new counsel.

Such actions by Opposer have prejudiced Applicant both in this proceeding and in his bona fide business pursuits.

A RESTART WOULD SEEM UNFAIR TO BOTH APPLICANT AND THE TTAB

Should Opposer choose to engage new counsel, it would not be fair to Applicant or the TTAB (whose resources are also limited) that Opposer be allowed to, effectively, start anew.

Presumably the TTAB concurs with a common legal principle, known by lawyers and many laypeople, that a party is bound by the actions of its agent (here, counsel for Image 10).

Therefore, it would be a miscarriage of justice and universal fair dealing that any new counsel be allowed a second bite at the discovery apple.

In other words, Applicant believes the basis for Applicant's Motion for Sanctions should be decided based on historical facts only, not current or future attempts at proper and fair opposition practice.

OPPOSER'S CURRENT REBUTTAL TO CRITICISM OF ITS PRIOR PRACTICES

Given this topic has been fully briefed previously, Applicant points out now, merely as examples, that Opposer has repeatedly ignored or violated the TTAB's position on discovery matters. For example, the TTAB twice stated the need for a privilege log. However, both times that instruction was ignored. In another instance, after Opposer stated, in its response to a document request, that certain documents would be produced '*if found*', the TTAB instructed this was not an appropriate response. Nevertheless, Opposer restated that same 'response' subsequently and repeatedly.

Applicant hopes that if the Director examines the history of the motion practice in this Opposition, he or she will note the above.

Applicant also respectfully asks that the Director consider the following speculation, suggesting a motive (although improper) for Opposer's harmful, dilatory behavior (through its counsel)

It would seem that since Counsel was no longer being paid, he felt no duty to either his client or even the TTAB, and certainly not to the Applicant.

However, as Applicant understands it, the **Rules of Professional Responsibility** require a continuing duty to Image 10, and Counsel's position as an attorney makes him an **Officer of the Court** (which, presumably, includes the Federal system including the TTAB), therefore, with a perpetual duty to the TTAB.

As a result of Counsel's behavior (and this, again, is an opinion by Applicant although based on the factual history), Counsel's failure to attend to this matter has caused many hours of unnecessary and uncompensated research and work in the preparation and writing of this letter, as well as many resources of the TTAB, again, an unnecessary expenditure.

A WORST-CASE SCENARIO

If Applicant's worries are correct regarding the TTAB's attitude towards a self-represented defense to an Opposition, (even if merely subconscious as Judge Posner suggest in his book), Applicant asks that the TTAB show that hand now, whether intentional or subconscious, so that Applicant can decide the best course of action going forward.

It seems reasonable to state that a simple Opposition, involving businesses operating with standard procedures, taking what is now two years with not one document produced and, therefore, no depositions taken, or supplemental discovery requested, is far too long by any reasonable standard. With no apparent exceptions, the dilatory gaming falls squarely on the

shoulders of the Opposer, and, therefore, Applicant prays the Director will cause the recently dismissed motions to be given a fair review. To not sanction these prior practices (and their harmful and costly consequences, both to Applicant and the TTAB) in some form seems, certainly to Applicant, to be a miscarriage of the TTAB's basic mission, in particular, and justice in general.⁷

In addition to the ghosting described in Applicant's most recent motion, and summarized herein, Applicant would like to point out to the Director something the current IA apparently didn't note - the same, chronic behavior described in Applicant's prior Petition to the Director. In other words, those events should be added to the tally in determining if sanctions are appropriate. The section within the prior Petition (11 TTAB Pg. 2) reads as follows:

"Applicant, in all three of his motions to compel, provided proof of THREE prior email requests to Opposer that received no response whatsoever, either by phone, mail or email. (See Exhibits A, B and C in each of Applicant's Three Motions to Compel). Two of those email requests stated problems with the various responses to discovery requests by Opposer, and, therefore, requested 'meet and confer' conferences. None of these emails were responded to by the Opposer, as Applicant pointed out to the interlocutory attorney. As of this filing, there has still been no response from Opposer."

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicant believes that the silence and stonewalling perpetrated by the Opposer is counterproductive to the system designed to assess competing claims of right, and that such stonewalling is being, perhaps unwittingly, endorsed and aided by the IA's order.

⁷ As briefed in the Motion, it appears that Opposer may have caused these delays in order to raise money by advertising the mark improperly to the public, harming them, the public being the primary if not sole beneficiary of Trademark law. Applicant hopes the Director, or his or her delegate, considers this matter in its decision.

As stated in the original Motions and this document, Opposer did not nor has since responded to TWO REQUESTS to MEET AND CONFER regarding discovery disputes, ONE INQUIRY as to failed discovery transmission, and ONE INQUIRY as to DEPOSITION DATES.

In addition, if the Interlocutory Attorney's position is sustained, it would appear that Applicant's attempts at fair and necessary discovery are and will always be futile, possibly because of his Pro Se status. Applicant is obviously deep into the opposition process (one initiated, for the record by the Opposer, not by Applicant), and, therefore, clearly past the 'intention' and 'apparent' stage, having already consumed voluminous hours of research, analysis, thought and writing constituting more than 45 pages, in the aggregate, of reasoned and researched arguments) all of which Applicant asserts has been professional, diligent and trustworthy.

Applicant believes the decisions stated in the Interlocutory Attorney's order leave him with no other apparent option - in pursuit of fairness in the opposition process - other than this Petition, especially as it seems that Applicant's pro se status has prejudiced the IA against nearly all of the content in Applicant's motions.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner require reconsideration of the previously submitted motions, and, thereafter, issue a revised order, or, in the alternative, transfer the matter to another interlocutory attorney.

Applicant respectfully asks that the Commissioner notice that Opposer's behavior in the discovery process to date has been to deny the provision of any evidence to support Opposer's claims, depriving Applicant of essential information to defend Applicant's application or abandon it, perpetuating a TTAB action that should and could be resolved if such evidence of superior rights owned by Opposer actually exists. As a result, both Applicant's and the TTAB's time, effort and resources are possibly fruitless and wasted.

1	Colleagues in the legal profession have told me that this petition is pointless, or worse, it		
2	will prejudice the Board even further against me, given the understandable collegiate nature of		
3	the TTAB, and all organizations in general.		
4	If so, so be it. But Applicant would like to believe the mantra that 'we are a nation of		
5	laws' and that, therefore, the Director will adjudge this matter fairly and dispassionately		
6	regardless of whatever inter-employee awkwardness might later ensue within the TTAB.		
7			
8 9	Respectfully submitted,		
10	Respectivity submitted,		
11			
12	/Rusty Lemorande/ Rusty Lemorande		
13			
14	Dated February 11, 201		
15	Respectfully submitted Rusty Lemorand		
16	Pro S 1245 Crescent Heights Blve		
17 18	Los Angeles, CA 9004 Telephone: 1 323 309 614		
19	/Rusty Lemorand		
20	Rusty Lemorande <i>Pro S</i>		
21			
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LETTER OF PETITION

1			
2	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND FILING		
3	I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition to Commissioner was served on current		
4	counsel for Image 10 LLC prior to release by the TTAB, by e-mailing said copy, as agreed counsel, on February 11th, 2019, to the following email address: Michael Meeks at		
5	mmeeks@buchalter.com, Farah Bhatti at fbhatti@buchalter.com, and <u>hblan@buchalter.com</u> ,		
6	And,		
7 8	Christopher P. Sherwin, forthcoming counsel upon approval by the TTAB, by e-mailing said copy, as agreed by counsel, on February 11th, 2019, to the following email address: CSherwin@webblaw.com,		
9	And		
10	So there are no disputes as to receipt during the current, interim period, to Image Ten, as current		
11	self-represented party, on February 12th, 2019, to the following address, First class postage prepaid: IMAGE TEN, INC. CORPORATION, 216 EUCLID AVENUE GLASSPORT		
12	PENNSYLVANIA 15045		
13			
14			
15	/Rusty Lemorande		
16	Rusty Lemorando		
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	LETTER OF PETITION		

EXHIBITS





NOLD

To: "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>, "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 7:13 PM

Hello:

I took what you said in good faith and did a bit of research. As a result, I believe you are incorrect, and, therefore, now renew my request.

You didn't object to my request for tax returns based on relevance, but in case that is your thought, I would point out that your assertion of commercial activity in support of Image 10's continuing use of the trademark, would be supported and augmentd by proof of revenue as reported to the IRS.

Again, I point out, that in providing this information, and the other discovery requests, if very well put this matter to rest and save you, Image 10, the trademark office, and me a lot of unnecessasry work going forward.

Here is an example of my research which contradicts your assertion.

Under federal law, tax returns are not privileged. Tax returns are generally discoverable where necessary in private civil litigation. Young v. U.S., 149 F.R.D. 199, 201 (S.D. Cal. 1993). In St. Regis Paper Company v. United States, the United States Supreme Court found that although tax returns are made confidential within the government bureau, copies in the hands of the tax payer are subject to discovery. St. Regis Paper Company v. United States, 368 U.S. 208, 217, 7 L. Ed. 2d 240, 82 S. Ct. 289 (1961).

END OF RESEARCHED INFORMATION

Therefore, I now renew my request for the ta returns.

Alternatively, if you want to stipulate that no income was received from 1970 to 2016 by Image 10, that would suffice.

Please advise as soon as you can.

I once again renew my request for the outstanding discovery materials. As I've previously stated, only upon receipt, can I propose deposition dates.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

[Quoted text hidden]

Sent from Gmail Mobile Tel 323 309 6146

2/10/2019

31233030

(Highlights Added)

R.H. Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com>



NOLD - Discovery, Tax Returns and Settlement

Rusty Lemorande <lemorande@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 11:18 AM To: "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>, "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Hello:

I write again since I have not received a response to my last emails. If you would like to discuss this on the phone, I am always available, as I've previously written on several occasions.

To review, I am waiting for a response to:

- 1) When I will receive the previously requested discovery responses to not only be in compliance with the TTAB order, but in order to properly review in anticipation of depositions, and to, therefore, appropriately schedule those depositions.
- 2) Your response to the more recent tax return request. I sent you some case information which, I believe, supports my view that such a request for returns is appropriate. If you feel my supporting information is inaccurate, I would expect some responsive research from you.

If not, when will I receive the returns or the stipulation I previously suggested in lieu of returns?

3) Will you confirm that you have passed on the settlement proposal to your client (Image 10) and if you have, when there would reasonably be an answer? As I wrote, I believe an agreed-upon settlement is in the best interest of you, your client, myself and also the TTAB.

This lack of communication from you seems unnecessarily costly - in time and money. Is it the case that your client is not responding to you? Some research suggests that might be what's going on.

If so, please advise so we can figure out a solution.

Once again, I state the proposal I made in settlement is privileged and represents no admissions, evidence, or waivers, etc.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

R Lemorande

--RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046 tel: 323 309 6146

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile Tel 323 309 6146

EXHIBIT 3

(Highlights Added)



R.H. Lemorande <

Outstanding issues

Rusty Lemorande Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 12:43 AM
To: "Meeks, Michael L." mmeeks@buchalter.com, "Bhatti, Farah P." fbhatti@buchalter.com

Hello:

2/10/2019

As to TAX RETURNS -

In rebuttal to your proposition that they are not discoverable, I sent you a section from a relevant and ruling case decision on the matter, disputing your assertion, and requesting, once again, the tax returns.

I would think that if you dispute the information I sent, you would respond with your own dispositive info (e.g. statute, ruling). In other words, we would conduct an authentic 'meet and confer'.

Since you haven't responded, and because the discovery clock is ticking, I once again request the returns or a proper argument, with support, as to why they are not discoverable. They are obviously relevant. If you disagree, I ask that you argue that appropriately, as well.

As to PRIOR DOCUMENT REQUESTS -

In your response, you stated that certain documents would be forthcoming. I have been patiently waiting. However, thereafter, you sent a response stating that *nothing* would be produced. The prior promise of documents seems to have been dilatory. Please explain if my observation is incorrect.

Nevertheless, I will send you a new document request tomorrow which is within the limits.

As to CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY-EYES ONLY:

Please explain, in each instance where you assert that privilege, the basis for your assertion. Please provide the required privilege log, as well.

There are three issues described here. Would you please respond to each individually?

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046 tel: 323 309 6146





R.H. Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com >

OBJECTION TO PRODUCTION OF TAX RETURNS

Rusty Lemorande Rusty Lemorande@gmail.com>
Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 8:30 AM
To: "Bhatti, Farah P." fbhatti@buchalter.com, "Meeks, Michael L." mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Hello:

I once again ask for some clarification (and support) for your argument that tax returns aren't discoverable. I've provided one in some detail. Obviously, a bald assertion from me would not be persuasive to you. It works both ways.

This is my third inquiry, for the record.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

--

RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046 tel: 323 309 6146

Sent from Gmail Mobile Tel 323 309 6146



2/10/2019

R.H. Lemorande </

OBJECTION TO PRODUCTION OF TAX RETURNS

Rusty Lemorande <a href="mailto:remove-no-weight: blue-no-weight: blue-no-weig

Fri, Mar 23, 2018 at 4:21 PM

Mr. Meeks:

Thanks for sending the case information which I have read.

I disagree with your assertion that the case support, as you state, that: tax returns are privileged from discovery.

In fact, the ruling in the case first states: "Both parties acknowledge that tax returns are not absolutely privileged."

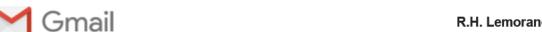
Later it is stated: "A district court may only order the production of a plaintiff's tax returns if they are relevant and when there is a compelling need for them because the information sought is not otherwise available."

The returns are relevant, there is a compelling need and the information sought is not otherwise available.

Please provide as per the previous requests.

Thank you.

Rusty Lemorande [Quoted text hidden]



R.H. Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com >

NOLD - Outstanding Discovery Requests

6 messages

2/10/2019

Rusty Lemorande

Fri, Apr 27, 2018 at 5:32 PM

To: "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>, "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>, "Blan, Henry" <a href="mailto:holder.com

Hello:

This is another attempt to receive the document requests not yet provided by you.

You have previously stated that tax returns are never producible. I subsequently sent you case law contradicting this. In short, it states that returns are privileged but only when other means to provide the financial information is available and produced.

You have not provided such alternative information.

You have also claimed attorney-client privilege in a remarkable number of occasions. 1) Business transactions in which an attorney participates but not in providing legal advice, are not protected. I assume you know this. Again, please send such documents and information requested.

2), when an attorney-client privilege is asserted, you still must provide a privilege log with certain detail and explanations that I'm sure you're familiar with.

You have not provided such a log despite several requests.

Will you please send the requested information that did not involve legal advice (therefore, not protectable) and also the required privilege log?

I'd like to avoid a further motion(s) to compel. I assume your clients would, too.

Thank you.

Please consider this another meet and confer. As I've repeatedly stated, I am available for phone calls whenever you wish.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046 tel: 323 309 6146

Gmail - NOLD - Outstanding Discovery Requests

EXHIBIT 7

(Highlights Added)



R.H. Lemorande </

NOLD - Outstanding Discovery Requests

Rusty Lemorande Wed, May 2, 2018 at 7:04 PM To: "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>, "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>, "Blan, Henry" <a href="mailto:<a href="mailto:<a href="mailto:<a

Dear all:

I sent you the below email five days ago and have not heard back, in addition to other prior inquiries in this matter.

Would any additional cases or treastise-like information help show you that tax returns are appropriate in this matter? And not privileged? In addition, you have sent none of the financial information requested, which, obviously, pertains to your argument that your client has been in the business of making movies over the past approximately half century...

Neither the tax returns nor financial data are protected by attorney-client privilege, as I believe I've explained,, since (and I assumed you knew this) tax returns and financial data are a matter of accounting, not a legal matter.

In addition, as I've pointed out, you have not sent, at least, a privilege log.

The pending motions do not freeze the correspondence in this matter between us. I assume you know that.

Please respond in some form.

Thank you.

RL

[Quoted text hidden]



R.H. Lemorande </

NOLD - Your recent responses to Applicant's revised document requests

6 messages

R.H. Lemorande <lemorande@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 28, 2018 at 8:41 AM

To: "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>, "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Hello:

I will call you later today to discuss the document you recently sent (regarding document production). I hope you will be available.

The key points for our discussion will be on my end:

- 1) Despite the order to produce, every request appears to be answered with a blanket pattern of objections such as 'attorney-client', 'non-relevance' and 'confidentiality'.
- 2) The majority of my requests are directed solely to reveal the ongoing business of Image 10 since its inception. None of the requests, I believe, are subject to attorney-client protection or attorney work product exceptions since all are a part of the regular business of a film company. In other words, none require the attention of an attorney, certainly not in anticipation of possible litigation.
- 3) In addition, several of the requests pertain to matter of **public record**, yet you claim they are protected. I ask respectfully, did you read all the individual requests?
- 4) As to tax returns, as I have previously stated in email correspondence (including citing cases) the law seems clear on this: Tax returns are sometimes privileged from discovery as long <u>as the information can be provided through alternative means</u>, such as financial statements. You have provided nothing of this sort.
- 5) The production requests include proof of **licenses** or similar which may have been granted by Image 10. Again, the issuing of a license or contract pertaining to intellectual property is a common business practice. No attorney involvement would be required, certainly not as far as prospective litigation.
- 6) I would also ask why you waited until the last day to file responses that not only were merely boilerplate-pattern objections but, as such, would only require a day or so to prepare and send (once receiving the TTAB order)?

These are the key items (but not all) that I would like to discuss today. Also, I'll be asking why you would respond to a TTAB order with such a blanket set of opposition statements, regardless of the nature of each individual request, and

No waivers of any kind should be construed from the above. All standard rights and remedies are reserved.

Sincerely,

RH Lemorande

RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046 tel: 323 309 6146

Sent from Gmail Mobile Tel 323 309 6146

Meeks, Michael L. <mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Tue, Aug 28, 2018 at 3:39 PM

1	Rusty Lemorande Address: P.O. Box 46771			
2	Los Angeles, Ca 90046			
3	Phone Number: 1 323 309 6146 E-mail Address: <u>Lemorande@gmail.com</u>			
4				
5	IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD			
6	Proceeding			
7	IMAGE 10) Proceeding Number: 91233690		
8	Opposer/Plaintiff,))		
9	vs.	 DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE RUSH IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANT'S LETTER OF PETITION TO DIRECTOR 		
10	Rusty Lemorande)		
1	Applicant/Defendant.)		
12)		
13)		
4				
15	I, Christine Rush, declare as follow	S:		
16	1. I am over the age of 18 and	not a party to this action, nor have any interest in this		
17	action.			
18	2. I am a colleague and also a	social friend of Rusty Lemorande.		
20	3. On occasion, Mr. Lemorande asks me to participate and/or participate in meeting			
21	or telephone conversations which he feels	might have legal significance.		
22	4. I have personal knowledge	of all facts stated in this declaration, and if called to		
23	testify, I could and would testify competen	tly thereto.		
24	5. Prior to August 28, 2018, M	Ir. Lemorande asked if I would be on an important call		
25	regarding a trademark matter he was involved	ved in.		
26	6. I agreed.			
27	7. On August 28, 2018, bein	g, on the call I heard the conversation between Mr.		
28	Meeks and Mr. Lemorande.	1		
	DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE RUS	SH IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANT'S LETTER OF		
		PETITION		

PROCEEDING NO: 91233690

1	Lemorande: Let me know if I can be of any help.	
2	Mr. Meeks: Okay. We'll get that filed very shortly. It will be early next week.	
3		
4	7. With congenial pleasantries, the call ended.	
5		
6	I declare the foregoing is true and correct., February 1, 2019.	
7	Christian Duch	
8	Signature: Christins Rush	
9	Printed name: Christine Rush	
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28	3	

DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE RUSH IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANT'S LETTER OF PETITION

EXHIBIT 10

(Highlights Added)



R.H. Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com>

NOLD - Outstanding Discovery Requests

Meeks, Michael L. <mmeeks@buchalter.com>
To: Rusty Lemorande <lemorande@gmail.com>
Co: "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>

Wed, May 2, 2018 at 7:08 PM

Your correspondence is irrelevant pending the TTAB decision on the pending motions. We will not communicate further.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Notice To Recipient: This e-mail is meant for only the intended recipient of the transmission, and may be a communication privileged by law. If you received this e-mail in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. Please notify us immediately of the error by return e-mail and please delete this message and any and all duplicates of this message from your system. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. For additional policies governing this e-mail, please see http://www.buchalter.com/about/firm-policies/.

